

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 5~~ for controlling a node in a network comprising:

storing a network identifier indicative of the network which the node is associated with;

receiving messages from other nodes and extracting network identifiers from said messages indicative of the network which the sending node is associated with;

comparing the received network identifier with the stored network identifier;

carrying out a duplicate address detection process when the stored network identifier is different than the received network identifier;

receiving an address request message transmitted from a second node and determining whether such message includes a flag to indicate that a duplicate address detection process is being carried out by the second node as a result of the second node having received a network identifier different than a network identifier stored by it; and

initiating a duplicate address detection process in response to the receipt of an address request message including said flag,

wherein the start of the duplicate address detection process is deferred for a period of time; and

wherein the period of time is determined at random.

7. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 4~~ for controlling a node in a network comprising:

storing a network identifier indicative of the network which the node is associated with;

receiving messages from other nodes and extracting network identifiers from said messages indicative of the network which the sending node is associated with;

comparing the received network identifier with the stored network identifier;

carrying out a duplicate address detection process when the stored network identifier is different than the received network identifier;

receiving an address request message transmitted from a second node and determining whether such message includes a flag to indicate that a duplicate address detection process is being carried out by the second node as a result of the second node having received a network identifier different than a network identifier stored by it; and

initiating a duplicate address detection process in response to the receipt of an address request message including said flag,

wherein after a duplicate address detection process has been initiated in response to the receipt of an address request message including said flag, address request messages which are received for a period of time thereafter do not initiate a duplicate address detection process.

8. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 3, further comprising for~~ controlling a node in a network comprising:

storing a network identifier indicative of the network which the node is associated with;

receiving messages from other nodes and extracting network identifiers from said messages indicative of the network which the sending node is associated with;

comparing the received network identifier with the stored network identifier;

carrying out a duplicate address detection process when the stored network identifier is different than the received network identifier;

receiving an address request message transmitted from a second node and determining whether such message includes a flag to indicate that a duplicate address detection process is being carried out by the second node as a result of the second node having received a network identifier different than a network identifier stored by it; and

retransmitting received address request messages for reception by other nodes.

9. A method according to claim 8, further comprising:

noting the receipt of an address request message and storing a record of the address of the node from which the message originated and preventing retransmission of address request messages where an address request message originating from the same node has already been forwarded.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 11 further comprising~~ for controlling a node in a network comprising:

storing a network identifier indicative of the network which the node is associated with;

receiving messages from other nodes and extracting network identifiers from said messages indicative of the network which the sending node is associated with;

comparing the received network identifier with the stored network identifier;  
carrying out a duplicate address detection process when the stored network identifier  
is different than the received network identifier;  
generating the network identifier itself; and  
waiting for a predetermined period of time to establish if any messages containing a network identifier are received from another node and if no such message is received carrying out the generating step.

13. (Original) A terminal for connecting to a network to form a node comprising:  
a memory for storing a network identifier indicative of the network which the node is associated with;  
a receiver for receiving messages from other nodes and extracting from said messages a network identifier indicative of the network which the sending node is associated with;  
a comparator for comparing a received network identifier with the stored network identifier; and  
a controller for carrying out a duplicate address detection process ~~where~~ when the comparator indicates that the stored network identifier is different ~~[[to]]~~ than the received network identifier.

14. (Currently Amended) A terminal according to claim 13 wherein, during said duplicate address detection process, said controller sends an address request message for reception by other nodes, wherein said address request message includes a flag to indicate that the duplicate address detection process being carried out by the controller is as a result of a received network identifier being different ~~[[to]]~~ than the stored network identifier.

15. (Currently Amended) A terminal according to claim 13 wherein said receiver additionally monitors received messages to determine if an address request message transmitted from a second node is received which includes a flag to indicate that a duplicate address detection process is being carried out by the second node as a result of the second node having received a network identifier different [[to]] than a network identifier stored by it.

16. (Original) A terminal according to claim 15 wherein said controller initiates a duplicate address detection process in response to the receipt of an address request message including said flag.

17. (Original) A terminal according to claim 16 wherein the start of the duplicate address detection process is deferred for a period of time.

18. (Original) A terminal according to claim 17 wherein the period of time is determined at random.

19. (Original) A terminal according to claim 16 wherein after a duplicate address detection process has been initiated by said controller in response to the receipt of an address request message including said flag, said controller inhibits the initiation of any further duplicate address detection process in response to address request messages received for a period of time thereafter.

20. (Original) A terminal according to claim 15, further comprising a transmitter for retransmitting received address request messages for reception by other nodes.

21. (Original) A terminal according to claim 20, wherein said memory is also adapted to store a record of the address of the node from which an address request message originated and wherein said transmitter is inhibited from retransmitting received address request messages where an address request message originating from the same node has already been received and stored in said memory.

22. (Original) A terminal according to claim 13, further comprising an extractor for obtaining a network identifier from a message received from another node and storing the network identifier in the memory.

23. (Original) A terminal according to claim 13, further comprising a generator for generating a network identifier and storing the network identifier in the memory.

24. (Original) A terminal according to claim 13, further comprising:  
an extractor for obtaining a network identifier from a message received from another node and storing the network identifier in the memory; and

a generator for generating a network identifier,

wherein the generator waits for a predetermined period of time to establish if the extractor has received any messages containing a network identifier and if no such message is received generates a network identifier and stores the network identifier in the memory.

25-29 (Cancelled)